

Section Meetings

Atlanta, January 13 — Paul Hogan, sales engineer, Tektronix, Inc., presented two testing devices for component video signals at this meeting, which took place at Tektronix's new Sales and Service Center in Norcross, Ga. Stephen D. Kerman, director of sales, Tektronix, took part in the presentation and answered questions from some 36 Society members and guests in attendance.

In presenting the Tektronix TSG300 analog component signal generator, Hogan outlined the problems one experiences in generating and testing the three signals (*Y, R-Y, B-Y*) which comprise component systems. He discussed the system differences between NTSC and component as regards transient response and frequency response. Of particular interest was the "bow-tie" test signal, used to measure delays and timing differences. Hogan showed slides of the TSG300, a 10-bit, 13.5-MHz digital signal generator that is compatible with the 525/60 and 625/50 systems.

The second product discussed and demonstrated at the meeting was the WFM300, a component waveform monitor/vectorscope. Hogan and Kerman talked about the various features of the unit, including the interesting lightning display with an electronic graticule. — Bebe F. McClain (Secretary/Treasurer), B. F. McClain Productions Inc., P.O. Box 5813, Asheville, NC 28803.

Atlanta, February 10 — Ampex Corp.'s VPR-3 Type-C VTR and Zeus I digital video processor were presented by Earl V.

Higgins, the company's field sales engineer. The meeting was held at Turner Broadcasting Systems, Atlanta, Ga., and attracted 35 persons.

The "turbo animation" feature of the VPR-3 was Higgins's first topic of discussion. This is the real-time recording speed of cels that are one field in duration or longer. A pre-roll time of 18 frames and a post-roll time of 4 frames are all that is required for the VPR-3 to record a "field" cel of animation. The Ampex VTR accomplishes this, said Higgins, because of its pinch-rollerless vacuum capstan and gas-film roller-guide technology.

Higgins then demonstrated the features and technical qualities of the Zeus I digital video processor. The unit improves slow-motion processing in time compression or expansion, without picture blurring or hopping. Higgins discussed the unit's digital velocity compensation, adaptive comb filtering, adaptive spatial averaging dropout, field interpolation, 9-bit, $4 \times f_{sc}$ sampling, and sync generator. The meeting concluded with a lively question-and-answer period. — Bebe F. McClain (Secretary/Treasurer), B. F. McClain Productions Inc., P.O. Box 5813, Asheville, NC 28803.

Detroit, January 14 — Sheldon Newman, chief engineer, Joseph Productions Inc., spoke to 29 members and guests at WTVS, a PBS-affiliated television station in Detroit. He told the story of how *The Detroit Comedy Jam*, originally intended as a film production, had to be post-edited



Paul Hogan at the January 13 meeting of the Atlanta Section.

using television methods. Numerous problems arose in having to edit 24 tracks of audio, in addition to film running at 24 frames/sec. Still other problems presented themselves during synchronization. Despite not having access to the most sophisticated equipment, Newman and his staff at Joseph Productions were able to make the HBO special compatible with the 29.97 frames/sec NTSC television system. — Rudolph J. Kryger (Secretary/Treasurer), CBET-TV, 1139 Eastlawn Ave., Windsor, Ont., Canada N8S 3J1.

Florida/Caribbean, January 9 — Seventy-five SMPTE members and guests turned out at Lake Buena Vista, where Bob Allen, manager of media productions, Walt Disney World, gave an interesting presentation. Allen and his staff of 34 produce all nontheatrical projects for Orlando-based Walt Disney World, including training aids, corporate reports, and promotional packages. The group completes some 1500 to 2000 such pro-



(L-R) Governor James Caron and members of the SMPTE Executive Committee, Carlos Kennedy, Si Becker, Lynne Robinson, Howard La Zare, Harold Eady, Maurice French, Blaine Baker, Richard Streeter at the meeting of the Florida/Caribbean Section.



Bob Allen speaking at the meeting of the Florida/Caribbean Section.

jects each year. Allen also discussed Disney's plan to build four sound stages, each to be designed and fully equipped for film and video production. SMPTE President Harold J. Eady and members of the Society's Executive Committee attended the section meeting. — Ralph S. Bevins (Secretary/Treasurer), FILMS, P.O. Box 1835, Longwood, FL 32750

Hollywood, January 9 — Robert Gitt, UCLA Film Archives, and Pete Comandini, YCM Laboratories, were guest speakers at the meeting, held in the Mark Goodson Theatre of the American Film Institute, Hollywood, Calif. In a presentation on film restoration, Gitt and Comandini showed clips of early stage and motion-picture stars. They explained how early filmmakers used color or tinted sequences in their black-and-white films to enhance mood scenes.

The speakers went on to trace the development of color and showed a 1935 clip of *Becky Sharp* in full color. Gitt explained some of the problems inherent in restoring films whose negatives or prints do not exist. On the whole, their work in film restoration has been marked by high quality and artistic superiority. About 150 persons attended a most informative and interesting section meeting. — Gustavo Dato (Secretary/Treasurer), ABC, 7825 Greenbush Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91402.

Houston, January 22 — Guest speaker John Parks, president, Prostar, explained the process by which cable television systems encrypt, or scramble, their pay channels. In addition to Parks's demonstration, the 35 SMPTE members and guests in attendance were treated to a film presentation on operations at Houston International Teleport (HIT), the host for the meeting. Sharon Trimble, director of marketing, HIT, introduced the film which, along with a tour, gave the attendees considerable insight into the delivery

and reception of satellite signals worldwide. A demonstration of one of HIT's STARS satellite mobile units capped the evening. — Robert B. Musburger (Secretary/Treasurer), University of Houston, 419 Oak Dale Dr., Stafford, TX 77477.

New England, December 12, 1985 — Six representatives from Ampex Corp. discussed and demonstrated the company's equipment at Landy Associates, Waltham, Mass. The meeting, which attracted 110 persons, was jointly sponsored by the New England Section and the Boston Chapter of the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

The Ampex AVC series of production switchers was the topic of the evening's first presentation. Jerry Ayers demonstrated the switcher in combination with an Ampex ADO device. He showed the effects-memory capability of the switcher, along with its multiple, repeatable, and re-entry effects.

Phil Bernal and Ray Dulye then presented the Ampex ACE editing system, configured with the on-line AVC series switcher, two VPR-3 Type-C VTRs, and a VPR-6 Type-C VTR for the demonstration. Bernal used the VPR-3s as source players and the VPR-6 as the recorder in his demonstration of the basic assembly of an A and B reel. The selection of edit-points on-the-fly and mark-on-the-fly were demonstrated with great ease, as were match-frame edits.

Bernal's demonstration of the Ampex equipment served as a preface to an in-depth consideration of the company's creative command center (CCC). The CCC is an Ampex concept of a fully-integrated, one-source avenue of approach for the entire video post-production facility. In the CCC, the video recorder/reproducers, digital effects devices, video mixing/switching systems, still-store, and graphics-generation systems all "talk to each other" over RS-422 serial control networks. The functions are controlled from

a single ACE console. Demonstration of the CCC continued when Dulye, while stationed at a small ACE operator's console, executed several complex bordered and soft-wipe effects on an AVC production switcher located 10 ft away. Bernal then demonstrated the features and capabilities of, and the various configurations for, the Ampex ADO system. Of particular interest was the easily accessed program for producing 3-D cube effects.

Mike Arbuthnot then demonstrated the VPR-3 VTR's enhanced high-speed shuttle features, using vacuum guides for minimum friction against the tape. Arbuthnot pointed out the recorder's unique gentle tension features, field accuracy, and the RS-422 serial control by the ACE or CCC systems.

The Ampex Zeus I digital video processor was the topic for the final presentation of this impressive section meeting. Arbuthnot demonstrated the Zeus I in use with a VPR-3, showing, dramatically, the special dropout compensation capabilities. He analyzed a block diagram of the unit, discussing its technological developments in the areas of velocity compensation, 4X subcarrier, 9-bit digital sampling, and A/D and D/A conversion techniques. Also discussed was the ability of the Zeus I to completely mask wrong color-frame edits on playback. — Paul R. Beck (Secretary/Treasurer), Emerson College, 71 Cross St., Foxboro, MA 02035.

New York, November 20, 1985 — This meeting drew 175 members and their guests to the Home Box Office (HBO) studios in New York City. Paul Heimbach, vice-president of engineering, HBO, discussed the MIA-COM Video Cypher II satellite distribution scrambling system. Heimbach gave an overview of the history and development of the Video Cypher II, an explanation of the unit's operation, and some discussion as to how HBO will utilize the system. Following the pre-



Ray Dulye discusses Ampex Corp.'s Creative Command Center at the meeting of the New England Section.



Michael Landy welcomes the New England Section to Landy Associates for a series of equipment demonstrations by Ampex Corp.

sentation, attendees were given a tour of the facility. — Alan B. Rosenfeld (Membership Chairman), Tape-Film Industries, 10 Steven Rd., Kendall Park, NJ 08824.

Ohio, January 28 — Two topics were presented at this meeting, held at the Lewis Research Center of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), Cleveland, Ohio. Arthur E. Florak, Eastman Kodak Co., opened the program with a presentation on 16mm Eastman color high-speed negative film 7292. He discussed the features of the film, which is the first motion-picture product to incorporate Kodak's T-grain silver halide technology. As the 26 attendees saw in Florak's demonstration films, this silver halide technology produces major improvements in graininess, sharpness, and underexposure latitude.

Jim Ely, NASA Communications Research Laboratory, simulated the effects that both co-channel and adjacent-channel interference have on satellite communications. He discussed the equipment used in the testing of interference. A tour of the center's Communications Laboratory concluded the meeting. — John A. Barak (Secretary/Treasurer), Industrial Video, 915 N. Terra Ln., Amherst, OH 44001.

Rochester, January 14 — Richard C. Sehlin, Eastman Kodak Co., discussed criteria for selection of negative films. Sehlin's paper, presented initially at the 126th SMPTE Technical Conference, covered Eastman color negative film 5247 and color high-speed negative 5294, and offered considerations as to how one chooses between the two. Following Sehlin's presentation, the tape "Production Lighting Techniques," by Vilmos Zigmund, was

shown. Forty-two persons, including many students, were present at the Rochester Institute of Technology for the meeting. — Philip C. Vogel (Secretary/Treasurer), Eastman Kodak Co., 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650.

Toronto, January 14 — Over 120 Society members and guests attended this meeting, which took place at the Ontario Hydro Building in Toronto. The first portion of the program was the showing of the film *Images*. Prepared by Eastman Kodak Co., *Images* explores the social value of film as a medium, as well as its use in scientific, engineering, and other fields.

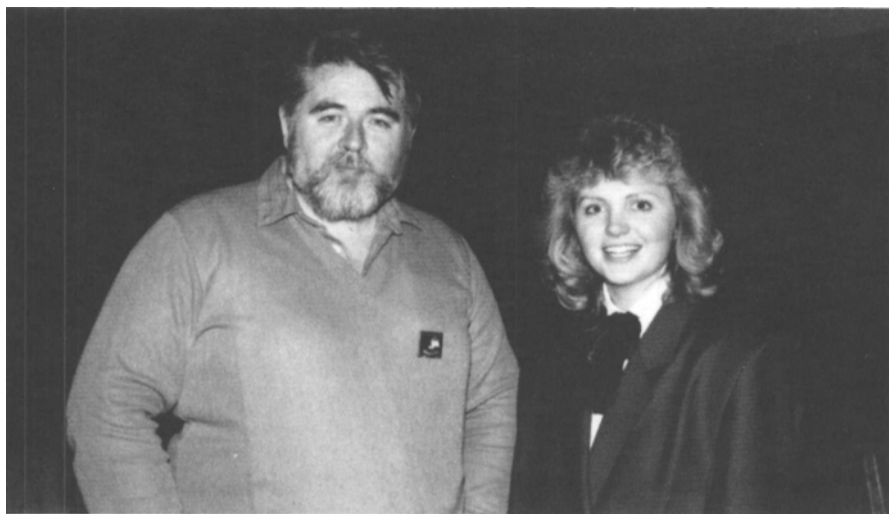
Holly Nightingale, technical sales representative for Canadian Kodak, then presented a paper on noise in film-to-tape transfers. The paper, which was given for the first time at the 127th SMPTE Technical Conference, explored the similarities between granularity in film and noise

in film chains. Nightingale also discussed the effects of gamma and telecine operational controls on the level of apparent noise.

Wayne Trickett, president, Trickett Productions, discussed the use of computerized motion control in special effects shooting. He explained the problems in dealing with models, multiple-exposure photography, and repetitive photography, and offered solutions to these problems. The computer-controlled articulated system described by Trickett has been used successfully in a number of commercial applications. The system can also address the problem of duplicating complete commercial productions for products that differ in their English and French versions. — David L. George (Secretary/Treasurer), Imagineering Ltd., 20 Rondeau Dr., Willowdale, Ont., Canada M2H 1R4.

Washington, D.C., February 19 — Jim Truelove and Bruce Miller, both with ABC, Washington, discussed some aspects of the News Division's technical and engineering operation. The ABC News Bureau in Washington, where the "ABC World News Tonight" and "Nightline" broadcasts take place, is staffed by 19 ENG crews. The facility is equipped with 20 3/4-in. editing suites. When ABC management decides to replace a piece of equipment in a plant, which occurs often, it must be certain that technical modifications are effected at the network's other facilities throughout the world. The aim, though costly, is to match all the electronics.

Truelove and Miller also discussed how ABC went about moving 375 personnel into the facility in 1981. Since then, the bureau has been expanded to accommodate 550 employees. Following the presentation, the 47 persons who attended the meeting toured the facility. — David A. Cmeyla (Secretary/Treasurer), U.S. Information Agency, 601 Dst., N.W., B/TVF/FSL, Washington, D.C. 20547.



Wayne Trickett and Holly Nightingale, guest speakers at the Toronto Section meeting.